

To: McWhirter, Lisa[McWhirter.Lisa@epa.gov]
From: Dermer, Michele
Sent: Tue 1/6/2015 10:10:52 PM
Subject: Re: media inquiry re: Clean Water Action Aquifer Exemption/UIC Report

I love your job too. Glad its yours not mine!

From: McWhirter, Lisa
Sent: Tuesday, January 06, 2015 1:56 PM
To: Dermer, Michele
Cc: Albright, David
Subject: RE: media inquiry re: Clean Water Action Aquifer Exemption/UIC Report

Thanks! I love my job! Ha ha

From: Dermer, Michele
Sent: Tuesday, January 06, 2015 4:55 PM
To: McWhirter, Lisa
Cc: Albright, David
Subject: Re: media inquiry re: Clean Water Action Aquifer Exemption/UIC Report

Whatever you need Lisa.

From: McWhirter, Lisa
Sent: Tuesday, January 06, 2015 1:47 PM
To: Dermer, Michele; Albright, David
Subject: FW: media inquiry re: Clean Water Action Aquifer Exemption/UIC Report

FYI. I am going to develop a draft response and would like to get your input on it as well. Do you have time tomorrow to review and comment on any draft? I also plan to share the Peter briefing materials with you tomorrow as well. I will need your comments by noon your time tomorrow in order to make any changes and get them to his assistant by COB.

Sorry for the short notice!

Thanks,

Lisa

From: Green, Holly
Sent: Tuesday, January 06, 2015 4:36 PM
To: McWhirter, Lisa
Cc: Graff, Michelle; Moore, Keara
Subject: FW: media inquiry re: Clean Water Action Aquifer Exemption/UIC Report

Here it is! We were able to buy a little time, but we will need to draft a brief summary and generic response and be prepared to answer specific Qs as they come in. We will also need to coordinate w/ Region 9.

Can you take a shot sometime tomorrow?

Thanks!

Holly

Holly Sage Green
Acting Chief, Prevention Branch
EPA Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20460
(202) 566-0651

From: Greene, Ashley
Sent: Tuesday, January 06, 2015 4:27 PM
To: Green, Holly
Cc: Bergman, Ronald; Kumar, Chitra

Subject: FW: media inquiry re: Clean Water Action Aquifer Exemption/UIC Report

Sorry to throw something else at you guys... (though it's not immediate at least)

Peter is fine with us not responding to this inquiry since we just received the report, however we will need to put together a statement on the report for future inquiries we anticipate receiving.

Thanks!

Ashley

From: Loop, Travis
Sent: Tuesday, January 06, 2015 3:37 PM
To: Grevatt, Peter; Greene, Ashley
Subject: Fwd: media inquiry re: Clean Water Action Aquifer Exemption/UIC Report

How do you feel about responding to this inquiry?

Travis Loop

Communications Director for Water

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Phone: 202-870-6922

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Keener, Bill" <Keener.Bill@epa.gov>
To: "Loop, Travis" <Loop.Travis@epa.gov>, "Lee, Monica" <Lee.Monica@epa.gov>
Cc: "Purchia, Liz" <Purchia.Liz@epa.gov>, "Zito, Kelly" <ZITO.KELLY@EPA.GOV>
Subject: FW: media inquiry re: Clean Water Action Aquifer Exemption/UIC Report

Travis and Monica, please see the request for EPA comment below. Let me know if

you want to respond directly (if you prepare a statement). This reporter at the Bakersfield Californian has been following the California UIC story closely. Thanks!

Bill Keener
Office of Public Affairs
U.S. EPA - Region 9
San Francisco, CA
Phone: (415) 972-3940

From: John Cox [<mailto:jcox@bakersfield.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, January 06, 2015 10:14 AM
To: Keener, Bill
Subject: Fwd: New Aquifer Exemption/UIC Report

Good morning,

I plan to write a story today about the attached study, released by nonprofit Clean Water Action. Would the U.S. EPA have a response to the study? I'll need to turn in my story by about 5:30 p.m. PST today.

Thank you,

J

----- Forwarded message -----

From: <agrinberg@cleanwater.org<<mailto:agrinberg@cleanwater.org>>>
Date: Mon, Jan 5, 2015 at 3:53 PM
Subject: New Aquifer Exemption/UIC Report
To: John Cox <jcox@bakersfield.com<<mailto:jcox@bakersfield.com>>>
Cc: John Noel <jnoel@cleanwater.org<<mailto:jnoel@cleanwater.org>>>

Hey John

Hope all is well and you had a good new year. Clean Water Action's national office is putting out a new report tomorrow on aquifer exemptions (AE) and the Safe Drinking Water Act. Of course, a big focus is on CA and the mess this summer with the injection well shut downs that you covered.

Additionally, I've attached a new paper we put out on the UIC more generally.

The focus of both of these reports is national, but CA and Kern County is ground zero for what these high level regulatory issues mean in real life.

Let me know if you have any questions. I'm copying the author of the papers, John Noel, who is based in DC.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – January 6, 2015

Contacts:

John Noel, 202-895-0420, x114<<tel:202-895-0420%2C%20x114>>, jnoel@cleanwater.org<<mailto:jnoel@cleanwater.org>>

Lynn Thorp, 202-393-3661<<tel:202-393-3661>>, lthorp@cleanwater.org<<mailto:lthorp@cleanwater.org>>

Michael Kelly, 202-393-5449<<tel:202-393-5449>>, mkelly@cleanwater.org<<mailto:mkelly@cleanwater.org>>

Water Supplies Sacrificed for Oil & Gas Industry Profit, Report Finds

Washington, DC –

Provisions of the federal law originally intended to protect drinking water are instead being used to allow oil, gas and uranium mining industry activities that would otherwise be illegal, according a report released today by Clean Water Action. This first-ever analysis of a critical Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) program found widespread sacrifice of underground water resources (aquifers) that could otherwise be used for drinking water in the future.

“In light of concerns about water quality and ongoing drought, which have only been exacerbated over the last three decades, the Aquifer Exemption Program should involve the highest level of scrutiny and transparency. But that is not what our research has found - and water resources have been put at risk,” said John Noël,

Clean Water Action National Oil and Gas Campaigns Coordinator.

The Aquifer Exemption Program is part of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) Underground Injection Control Program (UIC), authorized by Congress when SDWA first passed in 1974. Clean Water Action's research found a record of industry influence over the entire UIC program and a lack of EPA oversight over the Aquifer Exemption program. "The criteria for granting exemptions are woefully unclear and clearly outdated," Noël said.

In *Aquifer Exemptions: A First-Ever Look at the Regulatory Program That Writes Off Drinking Water Resources in Favor of Oil and Gas Profits*, Clean Water Action calls on the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to correct deficiencies in oversight and management of the program, to increase transparency, and to identify aspects of the Aquifer Exemption program which are out of date in light of rapid increase in oil and gas development and water stresses caused by climate change.

Clean Water Action also released *Regulating Oil and Gas to Protect Drinking Water: the Safe Drinking Water Act's Underground Injection Control Program – Overview and Concerns*. This background paper provides an overview of the UIC program regulation of oil and gas activities and calls on EPA to investigate several aspects of the program and ensure that the statutory mission of preventing endangerment of underground sources of drinking water is being met. The SDWA language authorizing the UIC program directs EPA to prevent endangerment of underground sources of drinking water, but in a way that does not "interfere with or impede" oil and gas activities. "The UIC Program, meant to protect drinking water, is constrained by this contradictory language and by historic underfunding," said Lynn Thorp, Clean Water Action National Campaigns Director. "We need to get serious about protecting precious water resources, and that includes taking a hard look at the UIC program and Aquifer Exemptions."

Report & Background Paper available at

www.cleanwater.org/DrinkingWaterAtRisk<<http://distribution.mymediainfo.com/lists/lt.php?id=fB8LA>

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Clean Water Action is the nation's largest grassroots group focused on water, energy and environmental health. Clean Water Action's 1 million members participate in Clean Water Action's programs for clean water, prevention of health-threatening pollution, and creation of environmentally-safe jobs and businesses.

Clean Water Action's nonpartisan campaigns empower people to make democracy work. <http://www.cleanwater.org><<http://www.cleanwater.org/>>

